

Naming Proposal/Renaming Fire Station 35 in Honor of Clark “Sparkie” Speakman

There is a proposal to rename Bernalillo County Fire Station 35 in honor of the late Clark “Sparkie” Speakman.

Fire station 35 is located at 11700 Paseo Del Norte NE.

The Board of County Commissioners will vote on whether to rename Fire Station 35.

Clark Speakman’s daughter, Diana Speakman, submitted the proposal in the form of a letter, which reads:

My father, Clark “Sparkie” Speakman began his volunteer career with Bernalillo County back in 1971. We lived out in Four Hills on “Speakman Dr.”; which is still present to this day. The Chief of Dist. 5 at the time was a high school buddy by the name of Willie Jackson and the station was located at the base of the Sandia Peak Tram.

- Please note that during this time Sparkie worked for the University of New Mexico Emergency Medical Services Academy- this is important because he and two other individuals were tasked with writing the “Emergency Medical Classes for both the Emergency Medical Services First Responder class, Emergency Medical Technician Basic Level Class and the Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic Level. The Bernalillo County Fire Department at that time had just been created a few years prior. With this in mind the Albuquerque Fire Department was the initial responder for both the city and the county’s emergencies. They began to put members of both services through the Emergency Medical Technician classes. BCFD was given the opportunity to also send some of their initial members through these classes that were hosted by AFD. So, all of our beginning volunteer/first time paid members went through these classes that my father not only help to create but he also taught . These were the very first paid personnel to come on board with Bernalillo County Fire Department.
- Not long after he became a volunteer with dist. 5, we moved into Sandia Heights at #15 Juniper Hill Rd, which was only three streets down from the fire station itself. My father started out as just a Firefighter until he really got into it and Chief Jackson noted what a good teacher he was and placed him into the “Training Officer” position for the district. In 1977, we moved to the location of 5300 John Thomas Dr. NE and they have lived there ever since. Chief Jackson and the other volunteers within the district found that Sparkie was a natural born leader and at one of the general membership meetings that occurred every second Tuesday of each month. Chief Jackson made the motion that Sparkie be nominated to the Chief’s position. The membership also agreed and voted him as the Chief, he kept this position until his forced retirement in 1992.
- Please note that from 1990 through 1992 he was hired by Bernalillo County Fire Department as their “Property Inventory Officer” and then was promoted to the Dispatch Supervisor.

- Even though he became the volunteer chief of Dist. 5 he felt it was extremely important to continue to take classes and learn as much as he could. With each class that he attended as a student when he returned to Dist. 5, he would put together all the materials needed and teach those classes to his personnel. The following is all of the classes that he took and then returned and taught his personnel.
 - Firefighter I
 - Firefighter II Rural Water Supply
 - Pump Operations
 - Liquid Propane Gas Emergencies
 - Flammable Liquids
 - Fire Officer I
 - Fire Officer II
 - Advanced Arson Investigations
 - ATC-21 Seismic Building Hazards
 - Fire Works Inspections
 - Emergency Vehicle Operations
 - Life Guard Ground Safety Team Course
 - Homatro Rescue Tool Certified Operator
 - Class “A” Foam Generating Equipment and Tactics
 - S-130/190 (New Mexico State Forestry)
 - S-290 (New Mexico State Forestry)
 - Community Master Planning
 - Rural Water Supply/Tanker Shuttle
 - Fire Investigations I
 - Sprinkler Maintenance
 - Management of Hazardous Materials
 - Hazardous Materials Incident Analysis
 - Hazardous Materials Transportation Emergencies
 - First Responder Radio Logical Emergencies
 - Firefighters Health and Safety
 - Water Supply and Application
 - Fire Management Resources
 - Volunteer Fire Service Management
 - High Performance Team Building
 - Instructional skills for the Fire Officer
 - Managing Multiple Project Objectives and Deadlines
 - Emergency Vehicle Extrication
 - Incident Command
 - Defensive Driver/Operator
 - Fundamentals for Radiological Response Teams
 - Emergency Management
 - Emergency Broadcast Systems
 - Liabilities in Emergency Management

District 5 began to grow, right along with the amount of people building new homes not only in Sandia Heights but also North Albuquerque Acres. The small confined fire station that had been located at the base of the Sandia Peak Tram wasn't able to grow with what we needed. So, my father and several of the other district members went to the County Commission and found out what they needed to do to start looking for a larger piece of land that a brand new fire station could be built upon. With all of the different do's and don'ts they received all the information that they needed and began the search for a piece of land that could be purchased. They ended up buying the land that the station currently sits on from the Sandia Indian Reservation. They sold the land for \$1.00 and he and his small group of officers meet with a contractor and they began making the plans for a brand new station. Each and every day my father would (prior to going into whatever job he held at the time) go and stop by to take pictures and make sure that they were making the station to the specifications on the plans. He took pictures every day to record the creation of one of the best stations within Bernalillo County. We moved into said fire station in 1984, I had just turned 15 years old and was able to become a hands on "Cadet" within the fire service. This program had been taken to the County Commission for approval due to risk management's requirements, Legal, etc. Another idea hatched from my father and he did all the paperwork and background needed for the program.

Clark "Sparkie" Speakman was always trying to find new ways to move forward or the next best teaching tool or way to help his people become the best they could be. He always gave and gave and never asked for anything in return. Not only am I proud to be his daughter but he had many other sons, brothers, uncles, etc... The fire service became our second family and one of the things that he didn't tell anyone except me on many of our "Father/Daughter Fishing Trips", that is greatest fear was to be forgotten. Hence, why I am respectfully requesting that Bernalillo County Fire Station 35 be dedicated in his name. I promised him that I would do whatever I could to make sure that he was never forgotten. Please help him and my family reach that goal.

Thank you for your consideration for this request.

Diana Speakman, Deputy Fire Marshal
Bernalillo County Fire Department